

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 271831Z FEB 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6050
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP PEPR EG CY
SUBJECT: PEOPLES ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES CYPRUS; GREECE TO
- REPRESENT EGYPTIAN INTERESTS

REF: CAIRO 6137

SUMMARY: PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I REPEATS RESTORA-
TION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND CYPRUS CONTINGENT
UPON TURNOVER SIBAI KILLERS. DEBATE CONTINUES
FEBRUARY 27. GREECE TO REPRESENT EGYPT IN NICOSIA;
UK WILL FILL SAME ROLE HERE; GOE DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN
GREEK CYPRIOTS AND KYPRIANOU REGIME. SOME EGYPTIANS
MAINTAIN LYSSARIDES (WITH PLO) RESPONSIBLE FOR AFFAIR.
END SUMMARY.

1. MAR'I STATEMENT. ADDRESSING JOINT MEETING OF
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PEOPLES ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AND ARAB RELATIONS AND NATIONAL
SECURITY COMMITTEES FEBRUARY 26, SPEAKER MAR'I STATED
THAT ONLY BY DELIVERING SIBAI MURDERERS TO EGYPT CAN
KYPRIANOU RESTORE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.
CHARACTERIZED KYPRIANOU'S REACTION AS "ILL-INTENTIONED",
NOTING SIBAI ASSASSINATION RESULT LACK OF GOC SECURITY.
MAR'I CONCLUDED EGYPTIAN INTENTION WAS TO FREE HOSTAGES

AND BRING KILLERS TO CAIRO FOR "FAIR AND LEGAL TRIAL".
INSTEAD, NATIONAL GUARD SHOT COMMANDOS IN BACK.

2. MORE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION
WILL CONTINUE TODAY: PM SALEM TO DELIVER STATEMENT ON
EVENTS FROM SIBAI KILLING TO RUPTURE OF RELATIONS;
MINWAR GAMASY EXPECTED ADDRESS "DASTARDLY SHELLING" OF
EGYPTIAN TROOPS AT LARNACA.

3. GREECE TO REPRESENT EGYPTIAN INTERESTS. RETURNING
FROM NICOSIA, AMBASSADOR SHASH TOLD REPORTERS GREECE
WILL LOOK AFTER EGYPTIAN INTERESTS IN CYPRUS. (UK TO
HANDLE CYPRIOT INTERESTS HERE). SHASH CLAIMED CYPRIOT
PEOPLE SYMPATHIZE WITH EGYPTIANS ("TWO PEOPLES HAVE
EXCELLENT RELATIONS"); GOC ACTED AGAINST WILL ITS OWN
CONSTITUENTS.

4. COMMENT: BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERS
NOW ON PUBLIC RECORD AS OPPOSING RESTORATION OF RELA-
TIONS UNTIL KILLERS TURNED OVER. WITH GREECE'S ASSUMP-
TION PROTECTIVE ROLE, AND SHASH'S CAREFUL AIRPORT STATE-
MENT, GOE ATTEMPTING DRAW SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN
TRADITIONAL GRECO-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP AND ACTIONS OF
KYPRIANOU GOVERNMENT. PRIVATELY, SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE
EGYPTIANS BELIEVE LYSSARIDES (IN COLLUSION WITH PLO) REAL
CULPRIT OF AFFAIR. EDITORIALISTS LAMBAST PLO, BUT RECOG-
NIZE PALESTINIANS AS BURDEN EGYPT MUST CONTINUE BEAR IN
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PEACE PROCESS (SEPTEL). EILTS

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